## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Rescutive Registry

OGC Has Reviewed

19 July 1977

National Intelligence Officers

TO:

Director of Central Intelligence

VIA:

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FROM:

NIO/China

SUBJ:

Your Briefing of the President on the Chinese Navy on 20 July

In my view, a briefing on the PRC navy, especially concerning its move toward open ocean capability, would be incomplete without a reference to the dramatic increase in China's merchant marine. So I suggest you take these facts to your Presidential briefing:

Since 1971 China has quadrupled the size of its merchant marine by adding over 3.5 million DWT at a cost of over one billion dollars. Acquisitions include the fleet's first tankers and bulk carriers. The Chinese international fleet sails to Japan, Western Europe, Africa and Canada and now carries more than half of the PRC trade (in 1972 it carried one tenth of the total).

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FORM NO .241 REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED.